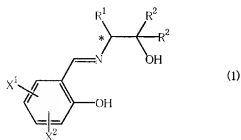


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An optically active copper catalyst composition comprising

(a) an optically active salicylideneaminoalcohol represented by the formula (1):



wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different, and independently represent a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group;

X^1 and X^2 are the same or different, and independently represent a hydrogen atom, a lower alkoxy group, a nitro group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, a cyano group or a halogen atom; and * represents an asymmetric center, provided that both of X^1 and X^2 don't represent hydrogen atoms,

(b) a monovalent or divalent copper compound, and

(c-1) a lithium compound or

(c-2) a compound selected from aluminum compounds having Lewis acidity, titanium compounds having Lewis acidity, boron compounds having Lewis acidity, zirconium compounds having Lewis acidity and hafnium compounds having Lewis acidity.

2. (Currently Amended) An organic solvent solution or a slurry containing the optically active copper ~~complex~~ catalyst composition according to claim 1, which is obtained by

contacting the optically active salicylideneaminoalcohol represented by the formula (1), the monovalent or divalent copper compound, and the lithium compound or the compound selected from c-2) in an organic solvent.

3. (Currently Amended) The optically active copper ~~complex~~ catalyst composition, the organic solvent solution or the slurry containing the composition according to claim 2, which is obtained by contacting the optically active salicylideneaminoalcohol represented by the formula (1), the monovalent or divalent copper compound, and the lithium compound.

4. (Currently Amended) The optically active copper ~~complex~~ catalyst composition or the organic solvent solution or the slurry containing the composition according to claim 2, which is obtained by contacting the optically active salicylideneaminoalcohol represented by the formula (1), the monovalent or divalent copper compound, and the Lewis acid.

5. (Currently Amended) The optically active copper ~~complex~~ catalyst composition according to claim 1, wherein the lithium compound is lithium salt, lithium alkoxide or lithium hydroxide.

6. (Currently Amended) The optically active copper ~~complex~~ catalyst composition according to claim 1, wherein aluminum compounds having Lewis acidity is trihaloaluminum, trialkylaluminum, trialkoxyaluminum, triaryloxyaluminum, or tris(pentafluorophenyl)aluminum,

titanium compounds having Lewis acidity is tetrahalotitanium or tetraalkoxytitanium, boron compounds having Lewis acidity is boron trifluoride diethyl etherate, triethylborane, triphenylborane, or tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane, zirconium compounds having Lewis acidity is zirconium halide (IV) or the complex, or tetraalkoxyzirconium, and hafnium compounds having Lewis acidity is hafnium halide (IV) or the complex.

7. (Currently Amended) The optically active copper ~~complex~~ catalyst composition according to claim 6, wherein aluminum compounds having Lewis acidity is trimethylaluminum, triethylaluminum, triisobutylaluminum, triethoxyaluminum, or triphenoxyaluminum, titanium compounds having Lewis acidity is titanium tetrahalide, tetraisopropoxytitanium or tetra(n-butoxy)titanium, zirconium compounds having Lewis acidity is zirconium tetrachloride, zirconium tetrachloride tetrahydrofuran complex or tetra(n-butoxy)zirconium, and hafnium compounds having Lewis acidity is hafnium tetrachloride or hafnium tetrachloride tetrahydrofuran complex.

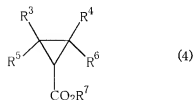
8. (Currently Amended) The optically active copper ~~complex~~ catalyst composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the compound selected from (c-2) is methoxylithium, triethoxyaluminum, tris(pentafluorophenyl)aluminum, tetraisopropoxytitanium or tris(pentafluorophenyl)borane.

9. (Currently Amended) The optically active ~~copper~~ catalyst complex composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the compound selected from (c-2) used is 0.3 to 5 moles per 1 mole of the monovalent or divalent copper compound.

10. (Currently Amended) The organic solvent solution or the slurry containing the optically active copper ~~complex~~ catalyst composition according to claim 2, wherein the amount of the compound selected from (c-2) used is 0.3 to 5 moles per 1 mole of the monovalent or divalent copper compound.

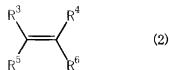
11. (Currently Amended) The optically active copper ~~complex~~ catalyst composition, or the organic solvent solution or the slurry containing the composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the monovalent or divalent copper compound is a C2-5 copper organic carboxylate, copper halide, copper methanesulfonate, copper trifluoromethanesulfonate, copper carbonate or copper hydroxide.

12. (Original) A process for producing an optically active cyclopropane compound represented by the formula (4):

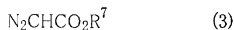


wherein R³, R⁴, R⁵ and R⁶ are the same or different, and independently represent a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group which may be substituted with one or more halogen atom, an alkenyl group

which may be substituted with one or more halogen atom, an aryl group or an aralkyl group; provided that, when R^3 and R^5 are the same, R^3 and R^4 are different from each other; and R^7 represents a C1-6 alkyl group, which comprises reacting a prochiral olefin represented by the formula (2):



wherein R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are as defined above, with a diazoacetic acid ester represented by the formula (3):



wherein R^7 is as described above, in the presence of the optically active copper catalyst composition according to any one of claim 1 to 6.

13. (Currently Amended) The process for producing an optically active cyclopropane compound according to claim 7 12, wherein the prochiral olefin (2) is 2,5-dimethyl-2,4-hexadiene.